

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
FEBRUARY 5, 2026 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Huntley, Kooistra, Matts-Benson, Penny.
ABSENT: Botzek.
STAFF: Freihammer, Haider, Johnson.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll Call Commissioners: Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Huntley, Kooistra, Matts-Benson, Penny.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Penny moved to approve the agenda as presented. Vice-Chair Beckman seconded.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Huntley, Kooistra, Matts-Benson, Penny.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

3. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT

No general public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Her moved to approve the January 6, 2026 meeting minutes. Commissioner Harris seconded.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Huntley, Penny.

Nays: None.

Abstain: Matts-Benson, Kooistra.

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

a) **PARK DEDICATION RECOMMENDATION - 0 LOT AT BRENNER AVE. AND CHATSWORTH ST. N.**

Staff provided background information on Park Dedication requirements and the ways in which qualifying development projects may satisfy those requirements. Staff also reviewed the role of the Parks and Recreation Commission, which is to evaluate proposed developments in relation to the City’s parks and recreation system plans and goals, and to make a recommendation on whether park dedication should be satisfied through the acceptance of land, cash, or a combination of both.

Staff reviewed the location of a proposed subdivision at the corner of Brenner Avenue and Chatsworth Street North. The proposal would subdivide a currently unoccupied parcel into two lots, allowing for the potential development of two residential homes. The project qualifies for Park Dedication, the cash amount for the two additional units would be \$8,500 and the required land dedication would equal 10% of the 0.50-acre parcel, or approximately 0.05 acres.

The proposed development is located within Constellation M of the Parks and Recreation System. Staff noted that there are no specific parkland plans currently identified for this area. The Commission discussed the relatively small size of the potential land dedication and expressed the opinion that a cash dedication would be more advantageous in this case.

Chair Matts-Benson moved to recommend cash in lieu of land to the city Council to satisfy the Park Dedication for the proposed subdivision at 0 Lot at Brenner Ave. and Chatsworth St. N. Commissioner Harris seconded.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Huntley, Kooistra, Matts-Benson, Penny.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Staff asked whether the Commission would be open to allowing staff discretion for small park dedication parcels that are not directly adjacent to existing parks, so that these straightforward items would not need to be brought before the Commission. Staff noted this approach may be a more efficient use of time.

The Commission agreed that they would be comfortable with small, straightforward parcel dedications not being brought forward for Commission review and expressed trust in staff’s judgment to elevate any items that would warrant additional consideration.

Staff noted that they would draft proposed language reflecting this approach for consideration by the City Council.

b) **PROPOSED KEYA PARK PATHWAY LAYOUT**

Public works director Jesse Freihammer joined the Commission to discuss the proposed Keya Park pathway layout.

- Pascal Street Issues
 - Numerous complaints from residents over the years
 - Speeding
 - Visibility
 - Close Calls
 - Requests for all way stop at Pascal/Brooks
- Pascal Street Pilot Project
 - Current Conditions
 - 32' wide street
 - 2 way stop control of Brooks
 - 25 mph vertical curve hill creates slight issues
 - Due to gas main hill cannot be lowered
 - 300 ADT
 - 85 percentile speed for Pascal is 22.6-24.9 MPH
 - No documented crash history
 - Pilot Project
 - Installed for 6 weeks in the fall
 - Goal was to demonstrate narrowing the street and providing a dedicated spot for pedestrians
 - Hoped to see reduction speed
 - Speed reduction inconclusive
 - Received lots of feedback
 - Both support and opposition to changes

Staff reviewed the three sidewalk construction options considered for the project, along with the past and anticipated project schedule. To date, the pilot project, neighborhood meeting, and review and recommendation by the Public Works, Environment & Transportation Commission (PWETC) have been completed.

The next steps include a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission, followed by consideration by the City Council.

- Pascal/Keya Recommendations
 - PWETC
 - Did not provide a recommendation on a layout
 - Recommended an all-way stop be added at Brooks/Pascal intersection
 - Public Works Staff Recommendation to Council
 - Recommend going with option 3 to install sidewalks behind the curb with no changes to Pascal St.

The Commission and staff discussed a range of project considerations, including the potential use of a roundabout, parking restrictions, biking on shared-use pathways, four-way stop concerns, sidewalk maintenance responsibilities, pathway connectivity, and crosswalk placement and usage. Staff noted that parking would not be permitted on the hill and would instead be relocated adjacent to the park.

Commissioner Boulton raised a concern that a short or disconnected pathway segment could present a safety issue for children, particularly if users transition from a protected pathway directly onto the street without clearly recognizing the change in safety conditions.

J. Hines, 2496 Pascal St.

J. Hines asked the Commission to consider how an accident is defined and questioned whether any accidents have occurred at the intersection. It was noted that the concept of a “close call” is subjective, and based on personal experience, the cost of the project was not viewed as justified. J. Hines also emphasized that stop signs are universally recognized and understood by drivers.

T. Baker, 2496 Pascal St.

T. Baker, who lives near the proposed project, expressed concerns about narrowing the street. It was noted that the roadway is frequently used by larger vehicles such as school buses and garbage trucks, and that the proposed bump-out could create new challenges. Despite concerns about vehicle speed, no accidents were reported in the area. Based on this experience, T. Baker questioned whether the cost of street narrowing is justified when more cost-effective and less permanent options may be available to address speeding.

Support was expressed for the addition of a sidewalk, provided that the street width is maintained to allow for the safe and efficient flow of traffic.

T. Foreman, 2490 Pascal St.

T. Forman stated that, in their view, funding has not yet been identified for how the three proposed project options would be financed. T. Forman also noted that documentation had previously been requested to support the claim that narrowing the street would reduce vehicle speeds and stated that, to date, this information has not been provided. It was expressed that,

from T. Forman's perspective, this claim appears to be an assumption unless supported by statistical analysis.

T. Forman questioned the stated 85th percentile speed range of 22.6–24.9 mph for Pascal Street, noting that, based on personal observation, vehicles frequently travel at speeds exceeding 30 mph. Clarification was requested by T. Forman regarding whether the four-way stop is being considered as a separate fourth option or as a modification of Option #3 that would include both a sidewalk and a four-way stop.

T. Forman noted that there are currently no sidewalks throughout the neighborhood and stated that this condition has been valued during 27 years of residency. T. Forman also questioned why speeding concerns could not be addressed through enforcement rather than physical roadway changes. Additionally, T. Forman requested that decision-makers who are unfamiliar with the area drive the corridor to better understand existing conditions and why, in their opinion, the addition of a short sidewalk segment would not address the stated concerns.

Staff responded to questions raised by community members regarding the proposed project options. Staff explained that roadway narrowing, if pursued, would be funded through pavement management funds, while the addition of a sidewalk would be funded through pathway funds. Staff noted that the PWETC recommended a four-way stop option to the City Council. However, staff clarified that they are not recommending the four-way stop option at this time. Staff also noted that a four-way stop could be incorporated into any of the proposed options if directed.

The Commission asked about the use of speed bumps to address speeding concerns. Staff responded that the City of Roseville does not utilize speed bumps, as they can cause vehicle noise and vibration, require additional maintenance, and often result in only temporary speed reduction, with drivers slowing briefly and then accelerating.

The Commission also asked about the justification for narrowing the roadway to reduce vehicle speeds. Staff explained that current urban roadway design standards emphasize narrower road widths as an effective traffic-calming strategy. Staff noted that historically, many Roseville roads were built at widths of approximately 32 feet, while newer roadways are typically designed at approximately 26 feet. Staff added that narrower roadways reduce maneuverability, which generally results in lower vehicle speeds.

The Commission and staff discussed marked crosswalks and pavement markings, parking located adjacent to the park rather than on the hill, connections to the proposed improvement, and the recommended project options.

Commissioner Donaldson moved to recommend an all-way stop at Pascal Street and Brooks Avenue, with parking permitted on the east side of Pascal Street, to the City Council. Chair Matts-Benson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Penny suggested adding additional signage to alert drivers that an all-way stop and/or park area are approaching.

Chair Matts-Benson moved to amend the motion to recommend an all-way stop at Pascal Street and Brooks Avenue, including exploring additional notification signage indicating an approaching all-way stop/park area, with parking permitted on the east side of Pascal Street except on the hill, to the City Council. Commissioner Penny seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Huntley, Kooistra, Matts-Benson, Penny.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

c) **COMMUNITY GARDENS OVERVIEW (COMMISSIONER-INITIATED ITEM)**

Deon Haider, staff supervisor for the Community Garden Program, joined the Commission to provide an overview of the program.

- Garden at Oasis Park
 - 120 15' x 20' plots
 - Gardeners may register for a double plot
 - 82 gardeners in 2025
 - Registration priority order:
 - Returning gardeners
 - Roseville residents
 - Broader community
 - Features:
 - Tillage in spring and fall
 - Water access and hoses
 - Compost delivery
 - Annual meeting with educational resources
 - Selection of free seeds and plants through MN Green
 - Wide variety of plants and growing methods
 - Only organic inputs allowed

- Patton Road Pilot Project
 - Located on Ramsey County Land
 - Previously managed by Every Meal
 - 20 4' x 20' 1-foot raised beds
 - Mulched paths
 - 15 gardeners in 2025
 - Features
 - Onsite composting station
 - Drip irrigation
 - Some trellises
 - Fenced
 - Communal shed with gardening tools
 - No-till

- Maintenance, Cost, and Operational Impacts
 - 20-30 hours of staff time to till/grid (spring & fall)
 - Periodic compost drops
 - Weed control (plots and neighbors)
 - Irrigation – Patton Road
 - Total maintenance ~ 60-70 hours per year
 - Management – 1-2 hours per week/set-up

- Feedback and Future Consideration
 - Revision to plot swap and double plot process
 - Gardener concerns
 - Weed management, pest control, tillage, infrastructure removal, theft, accessibility
 - Future considerations
 - Signage, regular educational information, tillage, fencing, fully accessible garden beds

The Commission discussed the Community Garden Program as a valuable and successful amenity. Commissioners noted potential challenges related to future program expansion and expressed support for proposed revisions to the plot swap and double-plot processes.

Staff noted that registration for garden plots and additional information can be found at cityofroseville.com/2081/Community-Garden-Plots.

d) **DISCUSS PLANNING FOR POSSIBLE NATURE PLAY ADDITION AT THE HARRIET ALEXANDER NATURE CENTER**

Staff relayed that over the past several years, the City of Roseville has made significant investments in the Harriet Alexander Nature Center (HANC) to enhance the visitor experience, improve facilities, and strengthen its role as a community destination for nature learning and stewardship. These investments have included mosaic cairns, new interpretive signage, updated building siding, and new exterior signage.

While the HANC grounds offer a wide variety of experiences, staff noted that a frequently requested amenity from visitors and families is a nature playground. A nature playground is a play space designed around natural elements such as rocks, trees, and plants. Staff reviewed the benefits of nature play, including supporting healthy child development, fostering connections to the outdoors, encouraging creativity and flexibility, and helping to offset some of the adverse impacts of technology use. Staff also shared examples of local nature play areas, noting that designs can vary but typically promote creative play, exploration, and appropriate risk-taking through a combination of natural and manufactured features.

Staff stated that the recommended next step is to engage a consultant to develop a site plan that evaluates potential locations, scale, environmental impacts, accessibility, and cost. The planning process would also include stakeholder engagement with current and potential HANC users, program participants, Natural Resource volunteers, Central Park schools, and donors.

- Funding plan
 - Initial study – Estimated around \$10,000-\$15,000
 - Funded by Central Park Foundation
 - Very preliminary estimates of \$700,000 to \$1 million
 - Implementation Funding Partners
 - Central Park Foundation Preliminary Pledge of \$100-\$200K
 - FOR Parks Preliminary Pledge of \$100-\$200k
 - Apply for Grant Funding (50% of the total cost, up to \$500,000)
 - John Robertson-Smith donation of \$250-\$500K
 - Not anticipating city funds for initial implementation
 - City would assume responsibility for ongoing operations and maintenance costs, as well as eventual asset replacement.
 - Capital Improvement Program (replacement cost)
 - 15% at 10 years, 100% at 20 years
 - Maintenance of one to two hours per week (irregular)
 - Ideally would continue to add program maintenance support at HANC to reflect the trends

Staff shared a very preliminary and tentative timeline for the project, noting that construction could begin in 2027 or 2028.

The Commission expressed support for the concept of a nature play space at HANC, noting it would be a unique and valuable addition to the park system. The Commission discussed potential locations for the play space, opportunities for programming that could utilize a nature play area at HANC, and considerations related to cost and long-term replacement timelines.

Commissioner Boulton recommended that staff review The Gathering Place in Tulsa, Oklahoma, during the planning process as a source of inspiration for unique nature play concepts. Chair Matts-Benson also recommended exploring The Gnome Homes at Camp Heritage in Lino Lakes as a potential model for creative nature play features.

Youth Commissioner Arneson moved to recommend that staff continue pursuing a potential nature play addition at the Harriet Alexander Nature Center. Commissioner Penny seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Huntley, Kooistra, Matts-Benson, Penny.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

e) MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS CENTER UPDATE (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

Chair Matts-Benson shared that a recent community engagement stakeholder meeting was held to involve the community early in the process and allow for initial brainstorming. Staff noted that preliminary design sketches will be available soon and that the project timeline remains on track.

6. COMMISSION DIRECTION ON MEMBER INITIATED AGENDA ITEMS

a) LIST OF COMMISSIONERS SUGGESTED TOPICS

The Commission reviewed the list of previously suggested topics.

Commissioner Kooistra suggested adding a discussion regarding a potential Community Center to the list. Staff noted that engaging with the City Council would be an appropriate first step to determine whether there is interest in pursuing this option.

Commissioner Boulton suggested adding Reservoir Woods to the list for future discussion related to erosion control and pathway planning at the park.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

a) **DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

- The Natural Resources Volunteer Event held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day drew more than 40 volunteers who participated in winter seeding despite temperatures reaching –26 degrees.
- The first community engagement meeting for the Autumn Grove playground replacement was held and attended by more than 20 participants.
- The Harriet Alexander Nature Center Open House is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The Sweetheart Dance will take place on Friday, February 20, from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. in the Olympic Room at the Roseville Skating Center. Pre-registration is required for this event.
- The Spring/Summer program brochures will be mailed to households during the last week of February, with registration opening on March 3.
- The 2025 Parks and Recreation Annual Report has been completed and a copy was provided to Commissioners. Staff noted that the report will also be available on the City website and promoted through social media.

b) **OTHER NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATION ITEMS**

Chair Matts-Benson noted that elections for Commission Chair and Vice-Chair will take place at the March 2026 Commission meeting.

8. **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Parks and Recreation Department Assistant